



**State of Connecticut**  
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Good Morning Chairmen McDonald and Lawlor, Ranking Members Kissel and O'Neill and Members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here today to testify in support of **Committee Bill Number 731: An Act Concerning the Possession of Child Pornography**.

This bill incorporates an important concept which I proposed earlier this session, which is to increase the penalty for persons who are convicted of possession of child pornography if it contains images depicting sadistic or masochistic abuse.

Child pornography is a particularly disturbing and damaging crime. As we saw in November 2007, when tens of thousands of pornographic images of children were discovered in the former home of Dr. George Reardon in West Hartford, the effects of this type of abuse are lasting and significant. We must send a strong message to the public that this type of crime will not be tolerated. By increasing the penalties for child pornography containing images of torture, we are providing prosecutors with an additional tool to ensure that persons who commit this type of crime against our children will receive a stiff sentence.

With the rapid expansion of the Internet, it is imperative that the Connecticut General Assembly keep its laws relating to child pornography current and up to date. Child pornography on the Internet is an unfortunate reality. It is our job as lawmakers to acknowledge there is a real threat against our children and do all we can to protect them.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to pass Committee Bill Number 731 to increase the penalty for persons convicted of possession of child pornography if such images contain depictions of sadistic or masochistic abuse. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to protect the children of the state of Connecticut from predators.